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THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" Sir, so far as the Government are concerned, they have another difficulty. It is the High Court which has to locate the Sub-Magistrates' Courts, and they have held that the present court is more suitable to the litigant public."

Thefts in the Legislators' Hostel.

* 157 *Q.*—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many thefts committed in the Legislators' Hostel were reported at the D-2 Police Station (Wallajah Road) within the last one year;

(*b*) what is the amount of property involved; and

(*c*) what action has so far been taken?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Six cases of thefts were reported at D-1 Triplicane Police station within the last one year.

" The total amount of property involved is Rs. 538.

" All these cases were duly investigated but had to be finally treated as undetected.

" The menial staff has been strengthened and a constable in mufti has been posted to patrol in the early hours of the morning, as precautionary measures."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM:—" Sir, in cases of such thefts may I know whether it is the duty of the hostel authorities or the duty of the Members who live in the hostel to report the thefts to the police authorities? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" It is not the duty of anybody, Sir. But it is in the interest of the person who lost the property to complain." (Laughter.)

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Chief Minister is aware that part of it is due to the fact that the hostel is not provided with proper compound walls and some of the openings are not provided with doors? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, these thefts in my opinion are internal thefts." (Laughter.)

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I ask the Hon. Chief Minister to tell us what he means by ' internal thefts '? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" What I mean, Sir, is that people do not scale over the walls and steal, but people who have an opportunity and who are already inside manage to steal something which they very much need." (Laughter.)

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SRI A. RAMASAMY THEVAR:—" Being one of the victims of such thefts, and as such thefts are going on even today, may I request the Government to take extra precautions to prevent such thefts occurring in future? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, firstly, it is better not to have any valuable property in these temporary lodgings. Secondly, if we have any, we must keep an eye over them. Thirdly, when we leave the room we must carry them with us." (Laughter.)

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD:—" నాసామానులో కూడా అపహరించడం జరిగింది. హాస్టలులో నియమించబడినటువంటి చిన్న నౌకర్లు ఇటువంటిపనులు చేయకుండా ప్రధానమంత్రి ఏమిచర్య తీసుకొంటారు ?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" మీరిది ముఖ్యమైన విషయమని అనుకొంటె దీనికి నోటీసు ఇవ్వాలి."

Memorial from the Pensioners' Association, Cannanore.

11 a.m. * 158 *Q.*—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received a memorial from 216 members of the Pensioners' Association, Cannanore, requesting restoration of the cut in the rates of the dearness allowance and for other reliefs; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes. The requests were—

(i) To rescind the order of cut in the rates of dearness allowance to pensioners and to enhance the rates, so as to bring them to the level of those granted to the non-gazetted servants in active service.

(ii) To extend similar relief to retired non-gazetted servants drawing a pension of above Rs. 110.

(iii) To extend the educational concessions granted to the dependants of military men and to the children of pensioners also.

" The existing rates of dearness allowance granted to pensioners of this Government drawing pensions not exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem follow those adopted by the Government of India and all other State Governments. The rates were enhanced in 1947 without reference to the rates of dearness allowance granted to pensioners of the Central Government or other Provincial Governments and considerable additional expenditure was involved in the enhancement. These rates were reduced to the old level with effect from the 1st January 1948, 4½ or 5 years ago.